

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 026803

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO, US

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO GOP - YOUR SCHEDULED MEETING WITH
PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES

REF.: (A) LISBON 653 (B) LISBON 636

(C) STATE 23925

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. WE HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED LISBON 636 AND YOUR
COGENT ANALYSIS OF THE DISADVANTAGES OF TOO FREQUENT
DEMARCHES TO THE GOP. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE IT IS IN
OUR INTEREST TO DELIVER POINTED WARNING TO THE LEFTISTS
WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) AND YOUR
SCHEDULED MEETING WITH GONCALVES IS A GOOD VEHICLE
FOR DOING THIS.

2. SINCE WE NOW HAVE MORE COMPLETE DATA ON THE
SOVIET FISHING FLEET STORY, INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED
REF C REQUIRE MODIFICATION. WE AGREE WITH YOU THAT IT
WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO LINK THE FISHING FLEET
QUESTION WITH SUPPOSED ANTI-NATO SENTIMENT. THE
SOARES ANGLE IS ALSO OF GREAT CONCERN TO US.

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3. THE APPROACH YOU TOOK DURING YOUR MEETING WITH

ALVES (REF A) IS A GOOD PRECEDENT FOR THURSDAY'S CONVERSATION WITH GONCALVES. IN ADDITION TO POINTS IN REF C, PARAGRAPHS 3 THROUGH 5, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE

THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES:

(A) EVEN THOUGH GOP HAS ISSUED CATEGORICAL DENIAL OF SOVIET REQUEST FOR FISHING PORT, THE RECENT LABOR LAW VOTE, THE OPORTO INCIDENT WITH THE CDS CONVENTION, AND GENERAL OTELO DE CARVALHO'S PRESS STATEMENTS ABOUT THE LACK OF MEANING OF THE APRIL ELECTIONS LEND AN AURA OF CREDIBILITY TO SUCH REPORTS AND -- READ COLLECTIVELY-- SUGGEST A DISTURBING AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC TREND IN PORTUGUESE POLITICS WHICH IS CAUSING SERIOUS CONCERN IN MANY EUROPEAN CAPITALS AND IN WASHINGTON.

(B) THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND MOST FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN LISBON CONTINUE TO HEAR ACCOUNTS OF PLANNED COUPS FROM THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT WHICH REINFORCES A WIDESPREAD IMPRESSION OF GROWING POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN PORTUGAL.

(C) AS PRIME MINISTER IS AWARE, THE US IS COMMITTED TO A PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL AND WE ARE ASKING THE CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE THE FULL \$25 MILLION FOR THAT PURPOSE. IT WOULD BE WELL TO REMIND GONCALVES THAT THIS AMOUNT IS FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.

(D) WE ARE ALSO ENCOURAGING OTHER FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL LENDING AGENCIES TO JOIN US IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL, YET THIS COMMONLY HELD PERCEPTION OF POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY AND RAPID LEFTWARD DRIFT IS MAKING OUR TASK INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT. KISSINGER

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